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President: Ms. King (Vice-President) ..... (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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In the absence of Ms. Chatardova (Czechia), Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(c) Statistics (E/2018/24)

1. **Mr. Mwangi Chege** (Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics of Kenya), Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from Kenya, introduced the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session (E/2018/24), summarizing the outcomes of the session and outlining the work undertaken to implement the decisions made and plans for the months ahead.

2. For 70 years, the Commission had worked to make data comparable around the world, with government experts on statistics uniting to develop a common language and serve the global community with their technical knowledge and expertise. After having agreed in 2017 on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 71/313), the Commission had focused in 2018 on the need for further methodological development for some of the new indicators, the dimensions and categories of data disaggregation and the data flows for global reporting.

3. The Commission had agreed that the main concern was capacity-building at the country level to meet the data demands required to fully implement the 2030 Agenda and monitor progress towards the achievement of its Goals, namely, high-quality, accurate, open, timely and sufficiently disaggregated data and statistics. Significant efforts were needed to strengthen data collection and statistical capacity in order to achieve the Goals and reach those left the furthest behind first.

4. The report contained cross-cutting decisions on establishing a financing framework for statistics and data, statistical organization, open data, big data and the integration of statistical and geospatial information, as well as decisions on national accounts, environmental-economic accounting, agricultural and rural statistics, refugee statistics and disability statistics, among other topics.

5. In particular, the Commission had welcomed the recognition of the importance of data in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and had committed to revising recommendations on statistics for international migration. The Bureau had been engaged in negotiations to advise on the statistical aspects of the proposed draft of the global compact on migration, and had delivered recommendations on objective 1, on the collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated data. It had called for capacity-building efforts to strengthen national statistics on international migration and coordinated efforts on migration data and statistics, while building on existing initiatives and mechanisms.

6. Given that the Commission had acknowledged the importance of contributing to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as requested in resolution 71/313, the Bureau and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda appreciated that its programme included discussion among policymakers, statisticians and other stakeholders on the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2018/3), as well as on data, statistics and statistical capacity-building needs.

7. The Commission had also discussed the need to strengthen coordination among the various United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to make statistical work more visible at the political level, especially in the context of the data for the 2030 Agenda, and the need to establish a position of United Nations chief statistician.

8. **Mr. Gonzalez Peña** (Observer for Cuba), highlighting the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, urged the Group to continue to work on the global indicator framework, which was the result of a process of consultation that had taken place in a broad, inclusive and transparent manner. The framework was an important starting point towards the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and targets, and its indicators required ongoing work. The policies, development levels, priorities and differing realities of each country must be respected; the central role of the national statistical offices must be safeguarded as sources of official data in preparing national follow-up reports on the targets and goals of the Agenda; transparent methodologies must be used and high-quality data obtained on a timely, verifiable and reliable basis; and statistical capacity, of particular importance for developing countries, must be strengthened. In some

cases, the indicators still did not cover the many aspects necessary to achieve a goal.

9. In particular, more work was needed on indicator 3.5.2, which was extremely restrictive and not well adapted to target 3.5 and, as the only existing indicator, was insufficient for measuring the scope of the target. The current formulation appeared to be a skewed version of the one used by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global monitoring framework for non-communicable diseases with regard to the harmful use of alcohol. Per capita consumption as the only indicator was not sufficient, either for differentiating between moderate versus harmful patterns of consumption or for reflecting — and hence treating — consumption outside the established legal age limits. Morbidity and mortality figures were also required.

10. The primacy of WHO and its governing bodies in establishing international health norms, standards and objectives for the indicator should not be ignored and, at the same time, Member State autonomy in the adoption of appropriate, holistic policies to address the issue of harmful consumption should not be limited. Cuba therefore requested that indicator 3.5.2 should be subject to a more detailed and comprehensive examination by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-first session in 2020.

11. The global indicator framework was essential to enabling the accurate measurement of future progress made towards achieving the Goals and their targets; not correcting its limitations could impair the proper implementation of the ambitious commitments made under the 2030 Agenda. Cuba encouraged the realization of the agreed changes aimed at creating a more just and equitable international order and could be counted on to support the process.

Action on decision contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session (E/2018/24)

12. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Section A

Draft decision: Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission

13. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2018/53 and E/2018/L.11)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(j) Women and development

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (E/2018/27 and A/73/38)

14. **Ms. Byrne Nason** (Ireland), Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women for its sixty-second session, reporting on the outcome of that session, said that every effort had been made to ensure that the Commission took full advantage of all of its working methods, thus improving the context for its work and enhancing the impact of its results. The session had offered opportunities for ministers to engage directly and share experiences, lessons learned and recommended action on the way forward, while stakeholders had participated in enriching and memorable interactive dialogues.

15. The Commission had addressed the priority theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls", focusing not only on issues specific to rural women and girls, but also on those shared by all women, everywhere. A robust agreement had been reached, highlighting the urgency of empowering and supporting those who needed it most and who had been left behind for too long.

16. The Commission had worked very hard to reach consensus. Its agreed conclusions represented concrete measures to overcome persistent inequalities and lift rural women and girls out of poverty, ensure their rights and well-being and build resilience, offering a clear road map for steps that Governments, civil society, women's groups and other stakeholders should take to support the realization of women's rights and address their needs and highlighting policies and actions to be undertaken in three key areas: strengthening the critical normative, legal and policy frameworks that often defined the lives of rural women and girls, and not always positively; implementing economic and social policies so that all rural women and girls were empowered in a way that allowed them to reach and realize their full potential; and

strengthening their collective voice to ensure that they took their rightful place in leadership in decision-making.

17. In the agreed conclusions, emphasis was placed on the importance of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, building on and drawing strong linkages to Sustainable Development Goal 5 and all its targets. Actions were also extensively aligned with the Goals under review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, as well as with many other Goals, thereby providing important input for the work of the Economic and Social Council and of the forum itself and its theme, "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities".

18. The Commission had achieved high visibility and political support, through the participation of numerous high-level government representatives. Stakeholders had the opportunity for rich deliberations, including with representatives of civil society organizations, rural women's and girls' organizations, grassroots organizations, human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, United Nations system entities, the media and the functional commissions of the Council.

19. Building on its past work, the Commission reviewed its 2003 conclusions on the theme "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women". Member States presented lessons learned and best practices in implementation, acknowledging that the digital age was rapidly transforming not only many aspects of economic, social and political life, but also gender-specific challenges and opportunities. Two interactive panel discussions were held, on innovative data approaches for measuring progress on gender equality and women's empowerment and the role of rural women's land rights and land tenure security in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. Pursuant to the Council's request to provide a recommendation on how best to utilize the year 2020 to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women, the Commission submitted two draft recommendations for action by the Council. The first would entrust the Commission with conducting a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action at its sixty-fourth session in 2020, together with comprehensive preparatory work at the national and regional levels. The second would recommend that a high-level meeting of the General Assembly should be convened in September 2020. The Commission looked forward to the adoption of those recommendations and stood ready to implement them.

21. Noting that the priority theme for the forthcoming session would be "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls", she pledged that, together with the Bureau and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Commission would work diligently to ensure that it continued to deliver cutting-edge progress for all women and girls, everywhere.

22. **Ms. Mehrotra** (Director of the United Nations System Coordination Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2018/53), said that achieving Goal 5 remained a top priority at the highest levels of the United Nations system and was actively promoted by the Secretary-General and his administration. The report presented an assessment of progress in and challenges to coordination efforts to promote that Goal within and throughout the United Nations system, including at the country level, in the final year of reporting under the first phase of the Action Plan (2012–2017).

23. Since its introduction in 2012, the Action Plan had brought about significant and sustained improvement in the performance and accountability of the system with respect to mainstreaming gender equality. In the past year more than 94 per cent of system entities, covering approximately 99 per cent of the budget, had reported on the Action Plan, with progress reported across all 15 performance indicators, in particular in policy and plans; strategic planning; organizational culture; and knowledge generation and communication. Significantly, 54 system entities had gender policies and plans in place, up from 21 entities in 2012, with twice the number of indicators being met among those having a policy than among those without one, thereby revealing that gender equality policies were a key driver of positive change. Nevertheless, persistent areas of structural weakness had precluded the system from

meeting all performance requirements by the 2017 deadline, primarily in the areas related to gender architecture and parity, resource allocation and capacity assessment. Phase 2.0 was designed to build on previous successes and lessons learned and was anchored in the 2030 Agenda. In 2016 and 2017, UN-Women had coordinated an extensive, system-wide consultative and piloting process to update the new Action Plan. The next phase would expand the accountability framework to encompass system-wide reporting on collective results linked to gender-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5.

24. UN-Women and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) had updated the United Nations country team gender equality scorecard to bring global and country-level United Nations accountability systems for gender equality into greater harmonization by aligning the scorecard with the Action Plan 2.0 and placing greater focus on gender equality-related results of the Goals. The updated scorecard had been piloted by 6 country teams in 2017, and another 17 to 20 were expected to do so in 2018. Common reporting on the new scorecard would allow for enhanced accountability and comparability across country teams and for tracking collective progress on the achievement of gender-related United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) outcomes, much as the Action Plan had done across system entities over the previous five years. The updates were opportune given the Secretary-General's ambitious and comprehensive transformation of the United Nations development system to deliver effectively on the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

25. The system continued to help Governments to integrate gender equality into national development and common country programming processes. In 2016, 70 per cent of country teams had undertaken common country analyses, which, under new global minimum standards, were now required to include a rigorous gender analysis and serve as the foundation of joint United Nations action on Goal 5. In addition, 72 per cent of the 58 UNDAFs for which implementation had begun in 2016 and at the beginning of 2017 had specified gender results at the outcome level, thereby reinforcing existing trends that pointed to an increasing proportion of UNDAFs with a stand-alone, gender equality outcome mainstreamed across other outcome areas, and approximately 30 per cent of the 371 joint programmes implemented in 2016 had focused on gender equality, addressing a range of issues. In 2016 and 2017, some 50 country teams had helped Member States to meet their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Nevertheless, redoubled efforts were needed to mainstream gender perspectives in common country programming processes in a more comprehensive and integrated manner, especially in areas of chronic underinvestment for women and girls.

26. While the United Nations system was making progress in achieving greater coherence on gender equality and the empowerment of women, the rate of progress remained uneven and insufficient to deliver effectively on the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system offered strategic opportunities to further enhance coordination, transparency and accountability on gender mainstreaming. UN-Women looked forward to advancing shared commitments and collective responsibilities in that area.

27. She outlined six priority actions aimed at achieving Goal 5. First, sustained leadership and support from the highest levels, including through resident coordinators and senior leaders, was vital for gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes and for supporting the full implementation of gender policies, including the updated Action Plan and scorecard. Second, and with the continued guidance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, delivering high quality and integrated support for achieving Goal 5 to the next generation of UNDAFs was essential, through both a dedicated gender equality outcome and the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment across all Goal-related outcomes, targets, indicators and budgets. UN-Women stood ready to provide guidance and leadership in that respect. Third, enhancing and mobilizing financing for gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be a top priority. The development and uptake of a harmonized gender marker would help to better measure and enable the system to address resource deficits, including through UNDAF common budgetary frameworks and thematic and pooled funding for collective action at the country level. Fourth, persistent capacity gaps on gender-mainstreaming, beyond basic mandatory training, must be assessed and addressed. Fifth, the production of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex and other relevant factors must be prioritized in national statistical systems. Lastly, the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel must be ensured in

order to lead by example and support effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective across the system.

28. Applauding the course of action outlined by the Secretary-General to make zero tolerance a reality, UN-Women viewed draft resolution E/2018/L.11 as a renewed political commitment to gender mainstreaming that provided clear and strong actions for the United Nations system to continue to work collaboratively and to be accountable for accelerating the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes of the system, including in the context of the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Draft resolution E/2018/L.11: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

29. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

30. *Draft resolution E/2018/L.11 was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-second session (E/2018/27)

31. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions contained in chapter I, sections B and C, of the report.

Section B

Draft resolution I: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

Draft resolution II: Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

32. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Draft resolution III: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

33. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guyana, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Against:

Canada, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Togo.

34. *The draft resolution was adopted by 27 votes to 3, with 13 abstentions.**

35. **Mr. Schettino** (Italy) said that his country attached the utmost importance to the advancement and empowerment of women, including to the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women. It continued to be deeply concerned about the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on all women and their families in the region and remained committed to achieving a two-State solution, on the basis of the parameters set out in the Council conclusions of July 2014, that met Israeli and Palestinian security needs and Palestinian aspirations for statehood and sovereignty, ended the occupation that began in 1967 and resolved all permanent status issues in order to end the conflict.

36. The resolution addressed a range of important issues, on which the European Union had actively engaged in the context of the General Assembly. Italy had abstained from the vote because the country-specific issues covered in the resolution should be dealt with in that framework. The European Union had expressed that position repeatedly, both in the current forum and directly in contacts with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine. Italy therefore strongly encouraged the phasing out of the resolution within the foreseeable future and was ready to work constructively with the Observer Mission in that regard. A lack of concrete progress in that direction in the future would be detrimental to efforts to maintain cohesion.

Section C

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-third session of the Commission

37. *The draft decision was adopted.*

* The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines subsequently informed the Council that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution, and the delegation of Denmark that it had intended to abstain.

38. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/73/38).

39. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2018/3)

Action on recommendations contained in chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2018/3)

40. **The President** proposed that the Council should transmit the agreed conclusions and recommendations contained in the report to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council.

41. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (A/73/81-E/2018/59)

42. **Mr. Zhu** (Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), speaking on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/73/81-E/2018/59). The report outlined the main findings of a recent survey conducted by the Department, in which United Nations system entities provided an overview of their efforts to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development throughout the system. Through concrete examples of actions and initiatives implemented since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which had helped to significantly advance the integration of the three dimensions throughout the system, the report demonstrated that such mainstreaming was essential to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. The findings suggested that system organizations were stepping up to the challenge of mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development by increasingly aligning their work programmes and priorities with the Goals. The initiatives outlined were encouraging steps in the right direction and deserved to be supported and nurtured so as to ensure enhanced system support for Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. System organizations should also learn from each other by exchanging experiences and lessons learned, keeping in mind their respective mandates and comparative advantages.

44. Support to Member States was also geared towards an integrated approach reflecting the three dimensions of sustainable development, focusing on the nexus among the Goals. There was also a clear willingness to enhance collaboration with the United Nations system and with business and civil society stakeholders, the aim being to build on the comparative advantages of the United Nations family and focus on adding value to country-level efforts towards achieving the Goals.

45. Ultimately, mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development should be an integral part of the work programmes of United Nations entities and part of the DNA and culture of the system as it embodied the transformative nature of the Agenda. He hoped that, in 2019, instead of a description of what the system was doing, the report would provide an analysis of how the system was doing it, to further enhance the synergies and interlinkages among system entities in supporting Member States.

Action on the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/73/81-E/2018/59)

46. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report.

47. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(f) Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (E/2018/49)

48. **Ms. Akselrod** (Assistant Director General for Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health of the

World Health Organization (WHO)), introducing the report of the Director General of WHO on the United Nations inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (E/2018/49), recalled that the Task Force had been established by the Council in 2013 to coordinate relevant United Nations system activities and had some 40 United Nations agencies and other international organizations as members. According to the report, efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 required the political commitments made previously at the General Assembly to be significantly scaled up. Countries also needed to make sound political choices, strengthen health systems, build national capacity, enhance international finance and prevent industry interference. The report provided a description of joint United Nations action in many countries and progress on global joint programmes to catalyse multisectoral action to prevent non-communicable diseases, carried out largely through funding from the Russian Federation. Other global joint programmes outlined included the prevention of cervical cancer, scaling up mobile technologies to address non-communicable diseases and reducing the harmful use of alcohol.

49. The report outlined the objectives of the new thematic working group established by the Task Force on tobacco control, as well as the activities of its working groups on scaling up action on nutrition, including ending childhood obesity; physical activity; mental health and well-being; environmental health risks and non-communicable diseases; emergencies; and non-communicable diseases in the workplace. According to the report, United Nations agencies needed to be bolder in the ways they responded to Member State requests to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases.

50. In 2018–2019, the Task Force planned to step up efforts to support more United Nations country teams; demonstrate how United Nations agencies were responding to the recent report by the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684-E/2018/7); and scale up its efforts to mobilize resources to deliver action on the ground in line with Council resolution 2017/8 on the work of the Task Force, which called for a significant increase in financing for the United Nations system response on non-communicable diseases. Noting that 2018 was a critical year for non-communicable diseases, she encouraged the participation of heads of State and Government in the forthcoming third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, in order to maintain political leadership on non-communicable diseases, central to the achievement of the Goals.

51. She drew attention to two recent WHO reports. The first, "Saving lives, spending less: a strategic response to non-communicable diseases", published in May 2018, laid out the benefits of implementing the most cost-effective and feasible interventions to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, known as the "WHO Best Buys". The second, published on 1 June 2018 by the Independent High-Level Commission on Non-communicable Diseases, outlined 20 recommendations in six areas: political leadership and responsibility; prioritizing and scaling up action; reorienting health systems to include health promotion and prevention and control in universal health coverage policies and plans; collaboration and regulation; financing; and accountability. The Task Force was committed to supporting Members States in those six areas, going forward, in particular to catalyse financing for the development of national responses to non-communicable diseases and mental health.

52. Lastly, she drew attention to the recent report of the Secretary General on progress on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/72/662).

53. **Mr. Varganov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was pleased with the progress made by the Task Force in coordinating the activities of institutions, programmes and funds of the United Nations, which provided assistance to States in fighting non-communicable diseases and in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals related to health. With requests by States increasing, his delegation agreed with the recommendations in the report with regard to the need to strengthen the technical and financial potential of the Task Force and to strengthen partnerships with Governments, civil society and the private sector.

54. Despite the efforts made, the fight against non-communicable diseases remained a topical issue and strengthening political commitments in that regard was of particular importance. The Russian Federation had shown that concrete results could be achieved through complex and coordinated measures on health at the political level. Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases had been strengthened and were among the national and global priorities key to the health programmes of his country, which actively used the experience and potential of WHO in the field and provided it with financial, technical and other support.

Such support included, in particular, a programme to provide assistance to several countries to develop policies for strengthening activities to fight such diseases, together with UNDP and WHO. In that context, his country had provided for investment projects for Kyrgyzstan and Belarus, as well as for United Nations visits to Uzbekistan, Zambia and the Philippines to collect initial information. In the coming months, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and the Islamic Republic of Iran would also be assessed. Moreover, WHO and UNDP had organized training programs for health specialists in Moscow and Geneva.

55. His delegation urged Member States to actively and constructively participate in the high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases in September and hoped that the outcome would lead to further strengthening of international efforts.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.